



The River Conference

of the Free Methodist Church

Opportunity for Lead Pastor

Midland Free Methodist Church, located in Midland Texas is looking for a lead Pastor for an existing opening. Midland Free Methodist Church (MFMC) is over 60 years old and lost its pastor of 30+ years in 2020 during the COVID epidemic and has been seeking a pastor since.

MFMC is a small church of approximately 20 adult members, with the average age in the mid-seventies. For most of its history, it was called the Latin Free Methodist Church of Midland, distinguishing it from 4 other Free Methodist churches in Midland during the 1970s. In the mid 1980's, MFMC's worship attendance reached over 200 weekly. The church plateaued during the 1990's and has been in decline over the past 20 years. The worship has traditionally been in Spanish, but all of the remaining members are bilingual. The church building is without debt and has a sanctuary that holds approximately 110, and a fellowship hall that seats about 20. The church building has 4 classrooms upstairs and is adjacent to a two-bedroom parsonage. While the sanctuary and fellowship area in a good condition, the classrooms and parsonage are in significant disrepair. The congregation is best described as active, spiritually mature and passionate about Jesus.

The Midland-Odessa metropolitan area has a population of over 350,000 and Midland has a population of about 120,000. Midland is located in west Texas with an economy based upon the oil industry. The average income is well above the nation and state averages, with the median family income of \$87,900 and a cost of living that is significantly lower than the national average. Midland is ethnically diverse with 41% identifying as Latino, 41% identifying as non-Hispanic White, and 8% identifying as African-American.

The members of MFMC recognize that MFMC needs a "restart." While most of Midland is bilingual, many of its residents under 45 years of age commonly use English as their preferred language. While a monolingual pastor (either Spanish or English) is capable of leading the church, the ideal pastor is bilingual and comfortable in ethnically and socioeconomically diverse ministry contexts.

The prospective lead pastor should have experience in revitalizing or restarting churches. Conversely, church planting experience is also valuable in restarting. The community represents a tremendous opportunity for growth. The River conference has prioritized Midland as an investment and will support the first year salary of its next Pastor as well as significant investment toward the church repairs.

Interested pastors should send a ministry CV to Superintendent Michael Traylor at drmichael@theriverconference.org.

